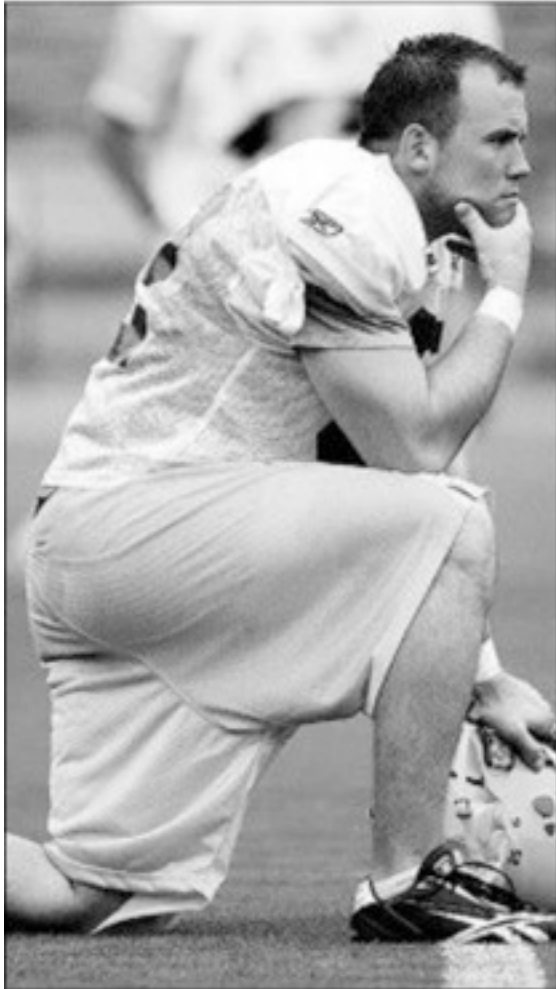


Long-snapper Inglis returns to Eskimos

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Long snapper Taylor Inglis takes a breather during Edmonton Eskimos training camp at Commonwealth Stadium in June 2010. The Eskimos have re-acquired Inglis.

Photograph by: Greg Southam , The Journal, File

Taylor Inglis is returning to the Edmonton Eskimos. On Tuesday, the club announced that it had re-acquired the veteran long-snapper from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers for Edmonton's fifth-round (32nd overall) and sixth-round (41st overall) picks in the 2011 Canadian college draft.

Inglis, a native Edmontonian who played with the Edmonton Wildcats, spent his first five CFL seasons with the Eskimos (2005-09) after signing as an undrafted free agent, but he was among the final cuts before the 2010 season. He signed as a free agent with Winnipeg last July and recorded eight special-teams tackles in 17 games last season.

"Coming back home to play in Edmonton has always been a dream and I guess a goal of mine . if I get the opportunity to play here the rest of my career, I'll be a very happy man," Inglis said.

The 27-year-old didn't leave Edmonton in the best of spirits, alleging he only got one long-snapping opportunity in last year's preseason. Now he's back.

"It's the business of pro sports and I'm aware of that, so I was a casualty of their scheme of what the coaching staff at the time wanted their players to be and I just didn't fit in," Inglis said of being released by the Eskimos on June 24, 2010.

Eskimos head coach Kavis Reed is just glad to Inglis is returning to the team.

"This is a new marriage. We didn't have to apologize for anything because at this time we haven't done anything wrong by him. Taylor was very understanding of the situation. He's a pro's pro and we're just pleased to have him back here."

Inglis was thrilled about returning to Edmonton.

"I was very excited to hear that there had been some thought process for a long time in me coming back and with the news that it's now happened I'm very excited," Inglis said.

The deal had been in the works since January.

In Inglis, Reed and the Eskimos get a proven veteran that they can use on special teams.

"In our assessment, Taylor is the best long-snapper in the league. His consistency has proven itself," Reed said. "The conditions that he's snapped in and the things that he's done special teams-wise we felt that it was a priority to get Taylor Inglis back here."

Inglis sells commercial real estate in the Edmonton area and is once again eager to wear Green and Gold.

"I'm excited to play for the newlook Eskimos, the new-look coaches and the new-look management," Inglis said.

Later in the day, the Eskimos announced that they had released a pair of imports: defensive end Kai Ellis and offensive lineman Patrick Afif.

In two seasons with the Eskimos, Ellis recorded 97 tackles, 16 specialteams tackles, nine quarterback sacks and two fumble recoveries, including one he returned 40 yards for a touchdown. The eight-year CFL veteran was also the team's 2009 nominee for most outstanding defensive player.

Afif played in two games for Edmonton last season.

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